THEN and NOW!

By Frances H. Paulette

Part 2 - "Miss Lillian"

Lillian Driscoll Hudson, as a teenager THEN.

Mrs. Lillian Hudson NOW.

Appomattox has a 'Miss Lillian' too! Mrs. Lillian Driscoll Hudson, who will be 84 years young on April 30th of this year, lives in the county of Appomattox beside a beautiful lake of approximately one and one-half acres. Fishing, from which she derives tremendous pleasure, is just a few steps from her back door.

Lillian, in addition to fishing, reading, playing croquet, growing flowers and watching television has an active interest in family history and of keeping alive happy memories of by-gone days.

Despite her nearly 84 years, an exceptionally keen mind and amazingly accurate memory make 'Miss Lillian' an excellent source of information concerning the days of THEN.

Mrs. Hudson was one of nine children and she and her husband, the late L. B. Hudson, also had nine children; Landon and Bascom live in Newport News; Mike, Ray and Jerry live in Appomattox; Irvin and the only daughter, Geneva Hudson White, live in Lynchburg; Bill lives in Amherst and Russell resides in Richmond.

When the nine children, their wives, husband, twenty-two grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren get together, there is without a doubt, a lot of festivity.

Lillian spent a lot of time in her father's combination store-post office located in a neighborhood then known as Hundley Springs.

Mr. Driscoll thought it might be to his advantage and also beneficial to his customers if he had a blacksmith shop nearby. Then when the customers come to trade their eggs and butter for groceries, they could avail themselves of the services of the blacksmith shop if the need arose. It became a reality and the log cabin in which the smithy lived, (the man who did the work in the blacksmith shop), is still standing and in good condition. It is in sight of Mrs. Hudson's home.

Lillian, who declared, "I was a real tomboy", remembers the thrill of riding the customer's horses from the store to the blacksmith shop.

Mr. Driscoll had in his employ an Indian named Ike Starr. Ike worked in the blacksmith shop. He had a son named Silas and two daughters, Mamie and Liza who were strikingly beautiful with long black hair and dark eyes.

Their favorite game was store. Her father provided the sturdy wooden boxes for counters and shelves. Silas was the storekeeper and they used small rocks for money. Sand was 'sugar', burdock seed was 'coffee', sassafras sticks were 'candy' and they sold 'cookies' made of mud and water and dried in the sun.

Mrs. Hudson recalled, "There was no such thing as a Mexican Bean Beetle, or blights, you just planted things and watched them grow. Cherries were so plentiful we would pick a half bushel at a time."

"They were wonderful days," continued Mrs. Hudson, "You could walk or ride your horse anywhere; there were no automobiles on the road and no airplanes in the sky. I can remember hearing my parents talk about the Wright Brothers; they thought it was a joke, someone trying to fly like a bird."

Laughingly, she recalled her first automobile ride; she was about seventeen years of age then.

A gentleman from Lynchburg had come down to the neighborhood in which Miss Lillian lived to attend a church dedication. His method of transportation? An automobile!

Not only did the people of the community have an opportunity to examine a car, close up, (that in itself was a treat!) but they could enjoy a ride!

For the staggering sum of 25c the owner of the car would give one a ride to the town of Appomattox and back.

"I was scared to death, but I went!"

When I inquired as to where she attended school, she replied, "Harvey's Gate, my first and last."

"Harvey's Gate" was a one room school on the farm of the late S. G. Harvey, approximately 6 miles from town. Access to the school was by way of Wesley Chapel Road. It was so narrow if you met someone you would have to pull your horse out in the edge of the woods in order for the other person to pass.

The school building was weatherboarded (never painted) on the outside and planked up on the inside. A large iron stove in the center of the room provided heat.

"There were no outdoor toilets," laughed Mrs. Hudson, remembering, "whenever there was an urgent call, the girls would ask permission to 'go to the spring', the boys would ask permission to 'get a turn of wood'!!

Mrs. Hudson remembered with love, her teachers, all deceased, "Addie Hunter, Elizabeth Harvey and Ella Inge, I loved them all."

"My first recollections of school days was when I was about ten years of age, in 1904." They had to walk three miles to school and three miles back. When the weather was bad, Mr. Driscoll would come for the children in the surry.

School THEN lasted only five months a year. The only thing expected of the students the first year was to learn their ABC's and to learn to count to 100. "Boy, that was hard," laughed Mrs. Hudson.

"Miss Lillian" remembers carrying her lunch in a little grape basket. It consisted of one biscuit with an egg between and another biscuit with butter and homemade preserves. She always had a gingercake because her Dad kept a store and she would often swap it for something someone else had.

There was one thing Lillian hated --- wearing long underwear!! It was especially embarassing after she began liking the boys!

"I would sit down on the side of the road after I had left the house and roll the underwear up above my knees; then when I stoop up there would be a big bulge in my skirt. But it still looked better than all that cotton drawers stuffed down in the top of my buttoned up shoes!"

The one room school seated twelve children - the boys on one side and the girls on the other.

"We did our arithemetic on slates; everyone had his or her own slate and pencil. When you got something wrong you would just spit on your finger and wipe it out. I didn't like to work at the blackboard", continued Mrs. Hudson, "because my longjohns showed when I raised my arms!"

"The boys brought water from a nearby spring in a tin bucket; there was only one dipper. Everyone used the same dipper." Laughingly, Mrs. Hudson added, "If you dipped up more water than you drank, you poured it back in the bucket. I reckon germs hadn't been discovered them! We were healthy as pigs."

In speaking of the "good ole days" Mrs. Hudson showed me a quote by Dr. A. Roach; it is said to have been posted in a factory in 1872. It read as follows:

"Effective September, 1872 - Office employees will sweep the floors and dust all of the furniture.

Each day fill the lamps, clean the chimneys and trim the wicks.

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Trim your pencils BEFORE work. (Evidently no time must be wasted sharping pencils after the workday began.)

Any employee who has worked here for five years and is a good citizen will be given an increase of 5c a day in his pay."

Who wants to live in the good old days? Well, Lillian Hudson did, she enjoyed it and she enjoys life to the fullest NOW. Thanks "Miss Lillian" for showing us what it was like THEN! You are, indeed, a very special person!

Mrs. Dickerson's 4-H Club

Mrs. Dickerson's 4-H Club meet the 10th of March at Pamplin Elementary School. Mrs. Smith and Miss Hudson held the meeting. We talked about demonstrations. Then Mrs. Smith said that the "Milk Measures Up Contest" will be in March.

Then the meeting was adjourned.

Carol Ann Jennings, Reporter

Mrs. Bryant's 4-H Club

Mrs. Bryant's 4-H Class met on March 14, 1978. President Kevin Hendricks, opened the meeting. Kevin Garrett said the American Pledge and David Williams said the 4-H Pledge.

Our game leaders, Charlene Reed, Jo Ellen Garrett and Carolyn Carenfix, then led us in a game. Our meeting was on demonstrations. We talked about the contest on demonstrations. Then the meeting was closed.

Kevin Garrett, Reporter

CHESTNUT GROVE

MARCH 13 - The regular Monthly Women's Missionary Society Meeting of the Chestnut Grove Baptist Church will be held in the home of Mrs. Alice Senger's Friday, March 13, at 8 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bryan attended the American Pork Congress in Kansas City, Mo., March 7 through March 10.

Visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Cook were Charles Wayne Cook of Richmond, Edward, Kenneth and Randy Cook of Prospect, Mrs. T. N. Saul of Appomattox and Brandon Chernault of Prospect.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Morris and boys were Sunday night visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Glover of Hixburg.

Frank Kemper and K. M. Beasley, Jr. were Sunday visitors of Donald Webb in Lynchburg General Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Morris and girls were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Haver at Andersonville and attended a birthday celebration of Mr. Rice Seay at his home.

Mrs. Emily O'Brien, of Richmond, visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Berkley O'Brien Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Henson Morris were supper guests Saturday in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland J. Morris at Appomattox.

Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Beasley, of Roanoke, visited their parents during the week end, Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Branch of Buckingham and Mr. and Mrs. Kemper M. Beasley, Sr.

Mrs. Kline Hill and children, of Richmond, were Monday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Harris and Mr. and Mrs. Joe L. Harris and Mr. and Mrs. Johnie Harris.

Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Beasley, Jr. and Kathy were Sunday visitors of Mr.s Kathrine Carson at Spout Spring.

Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Moore, Jr., of Appomattox, spent Sunday with Mrs. T. N. Saul.

Mrs. A. N. Morris and Nancy Wilson, of Farmville, were shoppers in Richmond Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Russ Smith, of Lynchburg, visited Monday with Mr. and Mrs. Joe L. Harris and Mr. and Mrs. Russell L. Harris.

Mrs. Aubrey Morris and Nancy Wilson visited Mr. and Mrs. John Waycaster, of Dillwyn, Sunday.

Ethel Proffitt, from Ferrum College, spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. C. Proffitt.

Mrs. Turner's 6th Grade 4-H

Mrs. Turner's 6th Grade 4-H Club met March 13, 1978. President, Jay Chenault, opened the meeting by electing Harold Vassar, 4-H reporter, to led us in theAmerican pledge and Thomas McFadden to led us in the 4-H pledge.

Our recreation leaders, Todd Thompson and Scott Drinkard, led us in songs and games.

Our secretary, Tommy Smith, read the minutes of our last meeting and they were approved.

Mr. Sweet handed out Public Speaking Certificates and we worked some on demonstrations.

Our president then adjourned the meeting.

Harold Vassar, Reporter

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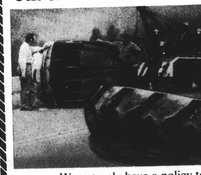

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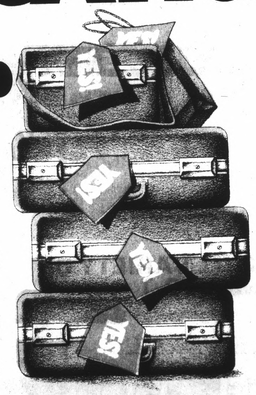

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Snow, Ice, Rain Road Damage Extensive

Snow, ice, rain, and the accompanying freeze-thaw cycle have damaged an estimated 4,850 miles of Virginia's roads, causing what probably is the most extensive winter damage in the 60-year history of the state highway system, the Department of Highways and Transportation said today.

Sections of some rural gravel - surfaced secondary roads, particularly in Southwest Virginia, are virtually impassable, according to Commissioner John E. Harwood.

He said the damage, which covers about 9 per cent of the 52,000 -mile state system, will cost an estimated $23.2 million to repair.

And, he added, the problem may grow worse with the spring thaw and the possibility of more winter storms still remaining and with a final road damage assessment yet to be completed. The estimates of damage announced today were based on preliminary reports from the department's field engineers.

Most heavily damaged is the state's secondary road system. Of the total cost estimate, almost $19 million is for repairs on the secondary roads.

Damage to the primary system has been placed tentatively at just over $4 million, while that to the newer and stronger interstate routes is about $192,500.

Nearly half the damage is in the 12-county Bristol highway district in Southwest Virginia. Approximately 2,000 of the district's 7,200 miles of state roads are affected, and the repair cost there alone is expected to reach more than $11 million.

Ordinarily, the department expects to spend approximately $8 million annually for repair of winter damage. A year ago, the winter road breakup extended to some 3,000 miles of the highway system, cost $20 million to fix, and was regarded, until now, as the most severe on record.

Harwood said today the department has begun making temporary, emergency repairs to many miles of road, but cannot begin permanent restoration until after the final thaw and the threat of more winter storms.

In order to expeditate the restoration, the permanent repairs will be performed mostly by contractors to be employed by the department, he said. The use of contractors will provide a larger work force, and will permit more of the department's own workers to be available for normal maintenance operations.

Harwood said the department's maintenance and construction divisions had been instructed to begin the preparation of advertisements for contractors' bids, so that the actual work may get under way at the earliest possible time.

The Commissioner said problems in obtaining adequate supplies of stone hampered the winter damage repairs a year ago, and could be troublesome again. He said he hoped such a supply problem would not cause extensive delays, however.

Funds for the restoration will come partly from money already allocated for highway maintenance, but in large part from money which otherwise would have been spent on new highway and bridge construction projects.

Harwood said action by the 1978 session of the General Assembly to repay $35 million borrowed from highway funds a year ago to balance the general fund budget "will be of tremendous help in financing the repair work in the months just ahead."

Legislation passed by the U. S. House of Representatives and under consideration by the Senate would, if enacted and signed by the President, provide $250 million in federal funds to be distributed among the states for repair of winter road damage. There has been no indication how much would come to Virignia. But Harwood said the state would not wait for the possible federal aid.

"This is one of those situations for which there clearly is no choice, and in which there must be no unnecessary delays. Our existing highway facilities must be restored and protected as a matter of first priority," Harwood said.

"Many citizens, particularly in rural areas of Southwest Virginia, are being inconvenienced in an intolerable way, and their transportation has been disrupted to the extent that, in some instances, it is almost nonexistent.

"The damage is so critical that automobile travel is virtually impossible on sections of some secondary roads, and school bus routes have been altered because the buses simply cannot get about in some areas," Harwood said.

Besides the road breakup cost, the department has spent more than $16 million for snow and ice removal this winter, more than ever before. It had budgeted $14.5 million for that purpose.

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Rep. Daniels Sets Workshop

Fifth District Congressman Dan Daniels will hold a workshop for constituents in Charlotte County on Wednesday, March 29.

Daniel will meet with constituents from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Charlotte General District Court Room at the courthouse or in the office of Judge R. Page Morton.

Any resident of the Fifth District, who has a problem with a Federal agency or who wishes to discuss legislation, may see the Congressman during those hours without appointment.

Those wishing to discuss Social Security, veterans, military, immigration, Civil Service or other kinds of cases should bring with them prior correspondence with the agencies or identifying file numbers to facilitate handling of the Congressman's inquiries in their behalf.

The Congressman will also hold workshops in Brunswick and Mecklenburg counties on March 28th. He will be in the basement of the Clerk's Office, at Lawrenceville, from 9 a.m. to noon, and at the Mecklenburg County Courthouse at Boydton, from 1 to 4 p.m. that day.

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